

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**Applicants:** David D. Demarest, et al.**Examiner:** C. Dexter**Serial No.:** To be assigned**Art Unit:** 3724**Filed:** Herewith**Docket:** 8924ZA**For:** SUTURE CUTTING SYSTEM**Dated:** February 5, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, kindly enter the following preliminary amendment.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

After the TITLE please insert the following:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION:

The present application is a divisional of copending application Serial Number 08/804,478 filed February 21, 1997, which is a CIP of Serial Number 08/181,595 filed January 13, 1994.--

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING BY EXPRESS MAIL**Express Mail Mailing Label Number: EL739620446US****Date of Deposit: February 5, 2001**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 C.F.R. § 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Dated: February 5, 2001


Mishelle Mustafa

Page 9, line 29, delete "250".

Page 10, line 28, delete "Figure" and insert therefor --Figures--.

Page 15, line 29, delete "left" and insert therefor --right--.

Page 22, line 2, after "opening" insert --80--; and

line 3, after "82" insert --in the direction of arrow--84--.

Page 25, line 25, after "air flow" insert --from vacuum source 250--.

Page 26, line 2, delete "source" and insert therefor --assembly--.

Page 28, line 20, delete "322" and insert therefor --332--.

Page 35, line 20, after "outlet of" insert therefor --the heater casing--.

Page 38, line 1, delete "386" and insert therefor --390--.

Page 39, line 13, delete "386" and insert therefor --390--.

Page 40, line 25, delete "436" and insert therefor --438--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

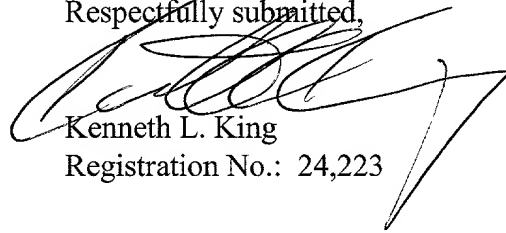
Prior to examination, please cancel claims 1-20.

REMARKS

Applicants submit that the foregoing amendment to the specification was made to add a "Cross Reference to Related Applications" section, cancel non-elected claims 1-20, and to conform the specification to that of the parent application. No new matter has been introduced

into the application by way of the present amendment. Therefore, early and favorable consideration of the present application, as amended herein, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Kenneth L. King", written over the typed name and registration number.

Kenneth L. King

Registration No.: 24,223

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